

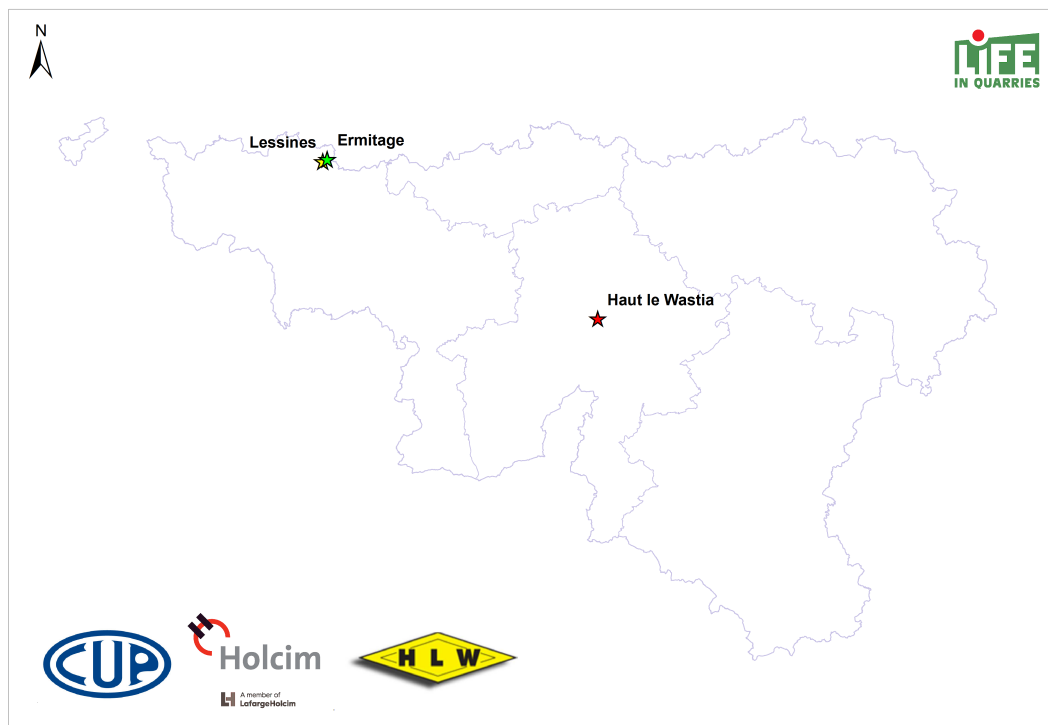
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## Newsletter #6

At the beginning of the fourth year of the LIFE in Quarries project, we are initiating the last phase of generalization at regional level with the reception of three new careers which will be submitted to an accelerated scheme, built on the experience gained so far. These 3 careers, Lessines (CUP), Ermitage (Holcim) and Haut-le-Wastia (Colas) are therefore involved from 2019 in the LIFE project which now has 27 sites in the Walloon region!

Indeed, one of the initial objectives of the project is to develop a biodiversity development model that is scientifically valid, technically realistic and generalizable in the context of the sector. This successful model will be released in 2020 at the EU level via site visits in at least 3 countries outside of Belgium.



Despite the cold and the snow of recent weeks, new permanent ponds have been made in the quarries of Quenast, Baileux and Calcaires de la Sambre. Gentle slopes will lead to the development of a variety of vegetation. The presence in the quarries of water with a limited amount of pesticides and fertilizers will create rich habitats. These will provide food and nesting resources for a variety of wildlife species.



## Some encouraging results

Absent the biological inventories made in 2017 in the Belle-Roche-Sablars quarry, the Common midwife toad (*Alytes obstetricans*) is well known around the quarry. After the establishment of small ponds and a boost from the staff against the drought this year, here are the first juveniles recently observed on the site! The first predators are also settling ...



This species is found in many natural and man-made habitats. It takes advantage of human activities to colonize ponds, ponds and ruts or well exposed lands. One of the most remarkable features of this toad is that the male carries the eggs after laying. It will only put the eggs in the water when they are ready to hatch. It can be easy to detect the



## Blue stones to create a tunnel for our bats!

The Life in Quarries achieves projects in favour of bats in active quarries. Some companies go further in their commitments; this is the case of the "Carrières du Hainaut", which has agreed to build a "gallery of stones" as a hibernation site for our bats. During the discussion on the action plan, it was proposed to the "Carrières du Hainaut" to take advantage of the layout of a mound to build a tunnel for bats. Quickly the staff of the quarry suggested to us the possibility to use big stones to arrange it like pieces of Lego.

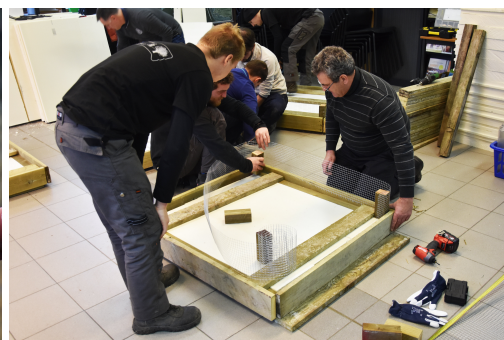
This was realized this summer 2018 by arranging two rows of stones on a length of 15 meters and a height of 1 m 50, distant of +/- 1 meter. The whole thing was then covered by a row of large stones and mud to buffer a maximum the created tunnel. The management team of the Parc Naturel des Plaines de l'Escaut will soon installing a door at the entrance to reduce the influx of light, temperature variations and the risk of predator intrusion. A bat silhouette on the door will inform the staff and visitors of the quarry of the assignment of this tunnel.



## Platforms for the Common Gull

The LIFE in Quarries includes a project to build and set up platforms for waterbird, particularly for the Common Gull (*Larus canus*), a rare breeder in Wallonia, which appreciates the ponds in the quarries in northern Wallonia. It nestles on the structures above the ponds, or on rocky islets. The installation of platforms must provide them with an ideal nesting site, isolated from predators.

This Friday 11/01/2019, the participating quarries gathered to follow a training on the birds of quarries associated with the construction of 22 platforms! The opportunity to combine theory with practice.



## LIFE are exported beyond European borders.

Shanghai, December 8th 2018,

More than 1000 participants at the 5th International Conference of the China Aggregates Association (CAA) admire the achievements of the project LIFE IN QUARRIES thanks to the videos. The actions and the concept of "dynamic management" draw the attention of several representatives of the CAA who wish to analyze it because China is transposing their "Green Mining Act". Dirk Fincke, Secretary General of UEG (European Aggregates Association), says: « ***Environment has no borders and sharing with China, the world's largest aggregates producer, could bring benefits for both our environment and industry.*** ».



Thank you for your interest, for any questions or additional information, do not hesitate to contact us or follow us on our website and social networks.



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